

through enlightened investments in people and relationships. And it will depend upon our devotion to movements exemplified by the Fulbright Program and the Rhodes Trust that reach out to the world with both pride and humility.

SOMALIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern regarding recent news reports about piracy off the coast of Somalia. As we all know, Somalia has been without a central, recognized government for well over a decade. It has been over 3 years since I chaired a series of hearings in the Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee on weak and failing states in Africa, one of which focused on the dire situation in Somalia and inadequate U.S. policy there. Years later, U.S. policy is still stagnant, I am sorry to report, and the danger persists, as these news reports indicate. The time is long overdue for the U.S. to make a long-term commitment to addressing this potential trouble spot.

I have consistently urged the Administration to be vigilant in focusing on weak states as part of the global fight against terrorism. All the characteristics of some of Africa's weakest states—manifestations of lawlessness such as piracy, illicit air transport networks, and traffic in arms and gemstones and people—can make the region attractive to terrorists and international criminals. Regrettably, Somalia is still not on the administration's radar.

According to recent press reports, pirates off the coast of Somalia are building strength and growing comfortable in expanding their attacks. Despite a lull in pirate attacks over the last 2 years, in just the last 6 months there have been 25 attacks off the coast of Somalia, according to the International Maritime Bureau. Attacks are no longer confined to the coast but reportedly include raids on ships hundreds of miles from the coast of the Indian Ocean. The resources and the audacity of the pirates appear to be growing. The attacks pose a tremendous threat to stability and economic development in the region, including neighboring countries such as Kenya and Djibouti that rely on maritime trade and tourism. The more organized the pirates become, and the more lucrative their crimes, the more we are faced with another potential front in the fight against terrorism, one involving a state-less network of some of the worst international actors.

The State Department 2004 report on counter terrorism in Africa states that the Somalia-based al-Ittihad al-Islami, AIAI, "has become highly factionalized and diffuse, and its membership is difficult to define" and that "some members are sympathetic to and maintain ties" with al-Qaida. State Department officials also acknowledge that AIAI is financing basic civil society needs in Somalia, including schools and basic

health care. The international community is failing to empower Somali civil society. Without our attention and support, how long do we expect this community to refuse basic human needs funded by terrorist organizations? And what are the consequences of groups like AIAI being perceived by the Somali people as generous benefactors? The U.S. must work harder at providing an alternative to such extremist influences in Somalia.

We can no longer insulate ourselves from weak states. We must engage. It is in our own national security interests that we work to strengthen institutions and empower civil society in weak and failing states in Africa in order to curtail opportunities for terrorists and other international criminals.

A multifaceted approach is necessary for the future of Somalia and for the future of our own campaign against terrorism. We cannot stand by as terrorist threats cross borders and destabilize the Horn of Africa. The international community must intensify its maritime vigilance. The U.S. long-term policy should include coordinating with regional actors in Africa and the international community to aid positive actors working in Somalia, build institutional capacity and legitimacy, promote national reconciliation, and sever community dependency on terrorist funding for basic services. These are difficult challenges, but Somalia is not hopeless. A transition government and opposing factions are requesting international mediation and attention. They are asking us to act, and we must answer the call, for their sake as well as ours.

CSBG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, no one is more committed to the Community Services Block Grant than I am. The Community Services Block Grant program helps to strengthen communities through services for poor individuals and families, assisting these low-income individuals to become self-sufficient.

CSBG provides critical services to poor families throughout the country. Services offered by CSBG entities can help support these important social services programs such as: Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs, LIHEAP, weatherization, literacy and job training programs, child health care, after-school programs, housing and homeownership services, financial literacy and asset development, and food pantries and meal programs. In FY 2002, the 1,100 community action network served more than 13 million individuals in more than 4 million families nationwide.

Over the past few months, I have received dozens of letters from Community Action Agencies from across the country, thanking me for my efforts on behalf on the Community Services

Block Grant. I, along with Senator Chris Dodd, spearheaded a letter, signed by 56 of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, urging Senate conferees to the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill to uphold the Senate funding level of \$637 million. I understand that the conference report on the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill includes \$637 million for CSBG.

I hope that the conference report on the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill will be enacted soon and that these vital resources will be directed to important services for low income individuals.

However, I cannot support the Har-kin amendment because if that amendment passed, it would result in an interruption of funding not only for CSBG, but for all the social spending programs that low income individuals depend upon. That is not a responsible course of action.

We should not make support for CSBG a partisan issue—we should work together to enact the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Conference Report so that money can be appropriately directed to fund these important services.

COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to express my disappointment in the cuts that the conference report for H.R. 2862, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006, made to important grant programs that assist State and local law enforcement agencies. I voted in favor of H.R. 2862 because of the other important programs that it funds, but I have grave concerns about these particular grant funding cuts.

I believe that Congress, in partnership with States and local communities, has an obligation to provide the tools, technology, and training that our Nation's law enforcement officers need in order to protect our communities. I have consistently supported a number of Federal grant programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Program, which is instrumental in providing funding to train new officers and provide crime-fighting technologies. I also have long supported funding for the Byrne Grant Program, which provides funding to help fight violent and drug-related crime, including support to multijurisdictional drug task forces, drug courts, drug education and prevention programs, and many other efforts to reduce drug abuse and prosecute drug offenders. I know how important these programs have been to Wisconsin law enforcement efforts, in particular with regard to fighting the spread of methamphetamine abuse. Both of these programs suffered major funding cuts in the conference report for H.R. 2862, which the Senate passed on November 16, 2005.